

AGN. NO. _____

March 23, 2004

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE AND SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

The Los Angeles County Fairgrounds (Fairplex) represents a significant resource that can and should be made available to support the residents of Los Angeles County during emergencies and disasters. This 543-acre site has considerable flat space, facilities, infrastructure and operational capacity, and it is strategically accessible by ground, rail, and air transport systems. There is historic precedence for such use, since it was a vital resource for coordination, assembly, and transshipment of war materials as well as a logistics and training center during World War II. Fairplex has developed a Homeland Security pilot project grant proposal to establish itself as a Regional Disaster Coordination and Staging Center that the County of Los Angeles, its contiguous cities, and State and federal partners can use to support response and logistics operations and other vital emergency management needs in response to a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction or a widespread natural disaster. This proposal seeks multi-year Homeland Security grant funds for infrastructure, transportation, and facilities renovation along with other improvements related to the

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overall mission of establishing the Fairplex as a Regional Disaster Coordination and Staging Center. The Department of Health Services, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, and the Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management provided input to this proposal and support its conceptual use of Fairplex for a variety of emergency management purposes.

In addition to the "value added" Fairplex infrastructure enhancements, the emergency planning and coordination component of this proposal should serve as a planning model for the use of other large venues in Los Angeles County. The potential for a terrorist attack in Los Angeles makes this type of large scale, venue-specific planning essential.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve the Fairplex Regional Disaster Coordination and Staging Center pilot project proposal and Fairplex's intent to seek funding through the Department of Homeland Security, and prepare a five-signature letter of support to Secretary Tom Ridge.
2. Based on Fairplex's successful acquisition of grant funds, instruct the Department of Health Services, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, and the Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management to support the next phase of project planning and to share, to an appropriate degree, in available grant funds designated for project planning.

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